

Remarks

The Office Action dated April 4, 2005, has been received and carefully noted. The amendments made herein and the following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 1 and 4-6 have been amended, and claims 2, 3 and 7-9 have been cancelled without prejudice. New claims 10-17 have been added. Applicants submit that the new claims as well as the amendments made herein are fully supported in the specification and the drawings as originally filed, and therefore no new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 1, 4-6 and 10-17 are pending in the present application and are respectfully submitted for consideration.

Allowable Subject Matter

As a preliminary matter, Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 6-9 of the present application.

Claims 1-5 Rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Masaki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,456,030, hereinafter "Masaki").

Claims 2 and 3 have been canceled without prejudice, and therefore the rejection of these claims is now moot.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter recited in claim 7. Thus, claim 1 is allowable.

Dependent claims 4-6 have also been amended to depend on allowable claim 1. As such, claims 4-6 are also allowable.

New Claims 10-17

Independent new claims 10 and 14 recite the allowable subject matter in claims 8 and 9, respectively. Therefore, independent new claims 10 and 11 are allowable.

As claims 11-13 depend from allowable claim 10, and claims 15-17 depend from allowable claim 14, Applicants submit that claims 11-13 and 15-17 are also allowable since these claims incorporate the allowable subject matter therein, respectively.

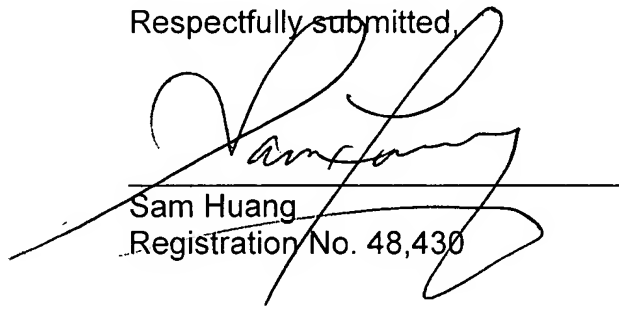
Conclusion

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that each of claims 1, 4-6 and 10-17 recites the allowable subject matter as indicated in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that claims 1, 4-6 and 10-17 are allowable and that this application be passed to issue.

If for any reason, the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper has not been timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, **referencing docket number 101175-00036**.

Respectfully submitted,



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